

## COMMISSION MEMBERS continued:

### Carol Lynn Patterson, APR

Carol Lynn Patterson is Director of Community Relations for the Newark Public Schools, where her responsibilities include empowering parents, enfranchising the community, and disseminating information on the district's accomplishments. Patterson is president of the Essex County Advisory Board on the Status of Women.

### Elizabeth Volz

Elizabeth Volz is the former President of the National Organization for Women (NOW) of NJ and a member of the national NOW Board. She is also the Director of the Goodwill Center for People in Transition in Stratford. Volz is active in her community as a member of the Glassboro School Board.

### Debbie Walsh

Debbie Walsh is the Director of the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers' Eagleton Institute of Politics. Walsh has led the Center's extensive work with women officeholders including conferences and trainings for legislative caucuses and newly elected officials.

### Mary Wells, LCSW

Mary Wells is President, CEO, and co-founder of Family Service, a large behavioral health organization in South Jersey. She was the first woman elected to the Moorestown Township Council, the first female member of the Moorestown Rotary Club and its first woman president. She chaired the NJ Department of Human Services Advisory Council and also was the first chair of the NJ Department of Human Services Children's Coordination Council.

### Debra Wachpress

#### Advisor to the Commission

Debra Wachpress is Project Director for the Lawrence Hopewell Trail. She served as NJ State Coordinator of the Million Mom March in May 2000 which drew over 750,000 people to Washington, DC, to advocate for stronger gun laws. Wachpress also serves on the Board of Directors for Kidsbridge Children's Museum, planned for development in Trenton.

To learn more about these Commissions or to start one in your area, please consult our website or call the **Division on Women at (609) 292-8840**.



County Commissions on Women

★ Municipal Commissions on Women

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1-800-572-SAFE (7233)

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT

1-800-601-7200

#### WOMEN'S REFERRAL CENTRAL

1-800-322-8092



NJ Advisory Commission on the Status of Women

P.O. Box 801

Trenton, NJ 08625-0801

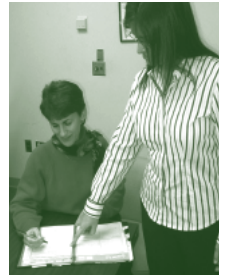
(609) 292-8840

[www.nj.gov/dca/dow/commissions.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/dca/dow/commissions.shtml)

## NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



# NJ Advisory Commission on the Status of Women



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State of New Jersey  
Department of Community Affairs



Richard J. Codey  
Acting Governor



Susan Bass Levin  
Commissioner

# Greetings from Susan Bass Levin and Kelly Rosso Leight

The **New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women** (Commission) was created in 1974 to act as an advisor and advocate for New Jersey women of all races and creeds. Working with the NJ State Division on Women, we are committed to addressing the critical concerns and issues confronting New Jersey women.

The recently restructured Commission is a diverse group of dynamic, talented women. Each Commission member is committed to raising questions, seeking solutions, supporting initiatives, and providing voluntary service to enhance the lives of women.

This introductory brochure is a brief overview of the Commission. We hope you find it both helpful and informative. Should you need additional information or want to inquire about how you can participate, please contact Jennifer Godoski, at the Division on Women, at (609) 292-8840 and visit our website at: [www.nj.gov/dca/dow/commissions.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/dca/dow/commissions.shtml).



Susan Bass Levin  
Commissioner  
NJ Department of  
Community Affairs



Kelly R. Leight, Esq.  
Commission Chairperson

## Equality & Beyond

Making a Difference for New Jersey Women

### Mission

The mission of NJACSW is to raise awareness of and advocate for the needs and concerns of women in New Jersey.

## State Commission on Women

The Commission serves in an advisory and support role to the NJ State Division on Women and is composed of a diverse group of eleven members appointed by the Governor.

### What We Do

The New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women:

- Examines concerns and advocates for the needs of New Jersey women.
- Advises elected officials and the Division on Women regarding issues affecting women.
- Acts as a resource for municipal, county and local commissions and for women's organizations throughout the state.
- Empowers women through partnership, programming, and publicity.

New Jersey has 18 County Commissions and several Municipal Commissions that advise their local Freeholder Boards and governing bodies on the issues and concerns of women in their districts. Visit our website for information on your local Commission or for information on how to start a local Commission.

### How to Contact Us

Consult our website at [www.nj.gov/dca/dow/commissions.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/dca/dow/commissions.shtml) for the date, time, and location of Commission meetings, a calendar of events, and for information about local NJ Commissions.



## COMMISSION MEMBERS:

### Kelly Rosso Leight, Esq., Chairperson

Kelly Rosso Leight is the Executive Director of the Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasic Research, Education, and Support Foundation (CARES), a nonprofit organization she founded to support individuals and families affected by congenital adrenal hyperplasia.

### Carmen Twillie Ambar

Carmen Twillie Ambar, Dean of Douglass College, is the ninth woman to lead the nation's largest public undergraduate women's college. She has developed a cadre of leadership programs, and established the Human Rights Residential Unit in the Global Village. She has spearheaded efforts to encourage young women to pursue careers in math, science, and technology. Before coming to Douglass, Dean Ambar served as Assistant Dean for Graduate Education at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.

### Irene G. Burke

Irene Burke is a member of the Grandparent Volunteer School Program and the Cherry Hill Senior Advisory Board, where she serves as President.

### Elsa Candelario, MSW, LCSW

Elsa Candelario is the Executive Director of the Hispanic Family Center of Southern NJ in Camden, a 28-year-old multi-service nonprofit that offers programs to thousands of individuals annually. She also serves on a wide variety of local and state committees, commissions and working groups.

### Edithe Fulton

Edithe Fulton is President of the 188,000 member New Jersey Education Association. An admired and respected education leader, Fulton is known as a strong advocate for education, for the employees and their students.

### L. Bebe Major

Bebe Major is the Public Relations Director for Sisters Network of Central New Jersey, a nonprofit breast cancer survivors' support organization committed to lowering the escalating incidences of breast cancer in the African American community. Her leadership has greatly increased the organization's visibility and garnered community support for survivors and their families.